



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/725,439	11/29/2000	Harold Rhea McKee	PU000142	9498

7590 01/23/2004

JOSEPH S. TRIPOLI
PATENT OPERATIONS
THOMSON MULTIMEDIA LICENSING INC.
P.O. BOX 5312
PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312

EXAMINER

GRANT II, JEROME

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2626

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2004

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/725,439

Applicant(s)

MCKEE ET AL.

Examiner

Jerome Grant II

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,6 and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.


JEROME GRANT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2626

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi.

With respect to claim 1, Kobayashi teaches an apparatus, comprising: an input circuit BPF 1 for receiving a video signal which can be a playback signal from a recording medium; a detection circuit (12) having a horizontal synchronization detection means 16 for detecting a horizontal synchronization signal, said detection circuit 12 having a horizontal lock detector (17), see also col. 3, lines 60-67, for detecting when the horizontal signal is not received at the same time period as that of the output signal of the VCO 22. An error signal is generated, see col. 3, lines 25-30 and 60-65. Kobayashi teaches a control circuit which are the combinations of elements 6, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, SW 2 and 37.

Art Unit: 2626

With respect to claim 8, Kobayashi teaches a detection circuit 12 which detects and performs horizontal sync. separation of the signal from the composite signal. Kobayashi further teaches a horizontal lock circuit 17, for determining when the horizontal sync. signal is received out of time and generates an error signal which is fed to a VCO 22 for correcting the Sync signal.

2.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of BAE.

Kobayashi teaches all of the subject matter upon which the claim depends. See the rejection of claim 1 above.

Art Unit: 2626

What Kobayashi does not teach is a detection of a vertical synchronization signal.

Bae teaches a detection of a vertical synchronization signal, as set forth by vertical output section 29, shown by figure 2.

Since Bae and Kobayashi are both directed toward video signal processing utilizing detection of horizontal synchronization signals, the purpose of detecting a vertical synchronization signal as well as a horizontal synchronization signal would have been recognized by Kobayashi as set forth by Bae.

It would have been obvious to modify circuit 12 of Kobayashi by replacing circuit 16 of Kobayashi or simply adding an additional sync processing circuit (2) of Bae along with the processing elements which make up circuit 12, so that both a horizontal and vertical detection of sync. signals could be detected and processed, as clearly suggested by Bae.

Art Unit: 2626

3. **Claims Objected**

Claim 3, 4, 6 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. **Claims Allowed**

Claims 9-19 are allowed for the reason set forth in the May 21, 2003 communication.

Claims 20 and 21 are allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach in claimed combination, "... causing said recording device to enter a pause mode of operation in response to a negative evaluation of said synchronizing components associated with said received video."

Art Unit: 2626

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerome Grant II whose telephone number is 305-4391. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams, can be reached on (703) 305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 305-3900.

J. Grant II
JEROME GRANT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER